

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05937 280834Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
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O 280406Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3916

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5937

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIANS TO PROTEST REPORTED PROMISE BY PRESIDENT TO
RESTRICT BEEF IMPORTS

1. FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOORE-WILTON OF DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE AND RESOURCES TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO STATE THAT GOA
INSTRUCTING ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO PRESENT NOTE VERBALE
TODAY (FRIDAY, WASHINGTON TIME) TO DEPARTMENT- ASST. SECRETARY
JULIUS KATZ PROTESTING APPARENT AGREEMENT BY AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION
TO SUPPORT COUNTER-CYCLICAL LEGISLATION IN THE CONGRESS.
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY BEING INSTRUCTED ALSO TO DROP COPIES ON
STR-STRAUSS AND SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BERGLAND.

2. NOTE WILL REITERATE AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON BEEF AND IN
PARTICULAR STATE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS APPARENTLY
EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR COUNTER-CYCLICAL LEGISLATION WHICH
WOULD ALLOW FOR INCREASING IMPORTS WHEN DOMESTIC SUPPLIES
ARE LOW AND RESTRICT THEM WHEN THEY ARE HIGH. UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES, THE AUSTRALIANS SAY THAT THIS WOULD HAVE AN
ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE MTN, THAT PASSAGE OF SUCH LEGISLATION
WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE MTN, AND
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ASKS WHETHER OR NOT THIS MEANS THAT THE USG IS CHANGING ITS
NEGOTIATION POSITION IN THE MTN. NOTE WILL ALSO REQUEST
CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR SUPPLIERS ON APPARENT CHANGE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION AND PARTICULARLY ON IMPLICATIONS OF
LEGISLATION SHOULD IT BE PASSED.

3. GOA ACTION APPARENTLY PRECIPITATED BY AUSTRALIAN PRESS

REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING ON
JULY 26 WITH US CATTLEMEN IN WHICH HE IS SAID TO HAVE
PROMISED, INTER ALIA, THAT HE WOULD NOT INCREASE BEEF
IMPORTS AGAIN THIS YEAR. PRESS SUMMARY REPORTED SEPTTEL.

4. COMMENT: IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION HAS OPPOSED THE COUNTER-CYCLICAL LEGISLATION
CONCEPT IN THE VARIOUS FORMS IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED
ON THE HILL AT THIS TIME. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE WELCOMED. FYI, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE,
EMBASSY PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ANTHONY ON MAY 5 FOLLOWING HIS ATTACKS IN THE PARLIAMENT ON
THE USG'S (THEN) POSITION ON BEEF ON THE EVE OF THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT. AT THAT TIME WE DREW FROM DEPARTMENT'S
GUIDANCE ON COUNTER-CYCLICAL LEGISLATION THEN BEING
CONSIDERED IN THE CONGRESS AND INFORMED THE DEPUTY PM THAT
THE ADMINISTRATION HAD OPPOSED THE ARIIOUS BILLS INTRODUCED UP
TO DATE.
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